



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://cao.co.la.ca.us>

DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

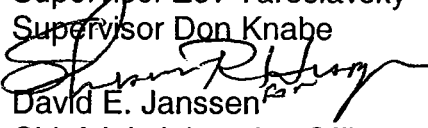
YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

January 20, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
From: 
David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

**MOTION TO SUPPORT MEASURES AND FUNDING FOR CREATION AND
EXPANSION OF MENTAL HEALTH COURTS, DRUG COURTS AND/OR COURTS
ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF PERSONS WITH CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS
(ITEM NO. 9, AGENDA OF JANUARY 24, 2006)**

Item No. 9 on the January 24, 2006 agenda is a motion by Supervisor Yaroslavsky to add the following statement to the State Legislative Agenda for the second year of the 2005-06 State Legislative Session: Support measures and funding for creation and expansion of mental health courts, drug courts and/or courts addressing the needs of persons with co-occurring disorders. This item was continued from the meeting of January 17, 2006 at the request of the Board.

The addition of this statement would complement the Homeless Court Program created by the Los Angeles County Superior Court, the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office, the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office and advocates for the homeless including Public Counsel and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. The Homeless Court helps impoverished individuals with a history of homelessness to clear tickets and warrants for minor offenses such as traffic violations, infractions, and various minor misdemeanors including jaywalking, riding the metro without a fare, sleeping in public places, illegal use of shopping carts, possession of an open container of alcohol in public, obstructing traffic on the sidewalk, as well as any warrants that arise for failure to resolve these offenses.

The Department of Health Services (DHS) indicates that this recommendation would support the goals of the County's network of Drug Court Programs. This intensive collaboration between criminal justice and drug treatment professionals has been in existence since 1994 and has led to the development of a comprehensive regimen of treatment and recovery services.

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) indicates that this recommendation would also support the expansion of the County's Mental Health Court Program which serves mentally ill defendants in court by providing mental health consultation services. Mental health professionals work collaboratively with defense attorneys to identify mentally ill defendants at the beginning of the criminal justice process, intervene with appropriate referrals and assist in developing dispositions that include mental health treatment. In some cases mental health staff facilitates the diversion of mentally ill persons out of the criminal justice system without a conviction. **Therefore, DHS and DMH recommend that the County support this recommendation, and we concur.**

This addition to the State Legislative Agenda is consistent with existing legislative policies to support funding for health, mental health, homeless assistance, social services, and criminal justice programs that provide or make accessible substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery services as part of a continuum of services; and to support increased State funding for drug courts with expansion to pre-plea drug court programs.

DEJ:GK
MAL:MS:lm

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Department of Health Services
Department of Mental Health